

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1. A tip section for customizing a cue stick, the tip section comprising:
- (a) a single-piece tapered hollow metallic tube having a first end and a second end, the tube having an exterior providing a substantially smooth surface, the tube having a wall capable of self-support and of carrying required physical loads arising during use;
  - (b) a first attachment site adjacent to said first end for connecting said tube to a cue tip; and
  - (c) a second attachment site adjacent to said second end for connecting said tube to a butt section.
2. The tip section of claim 1 further comprising an augmenting element securable to an interior position within the hollow tube, said augmenting element being selected from the group comprising: a weight and a stiffening member;
- wherein placement of said augmenting element tailors an operational characteristic of the hollow tube.
3. The tip section of claim 2 wherein placement of said augmenting element in the interior position within the hollow tube is determined by matching the tube's inner diameter at the desire placement within the tube with the augmenting element's outer diameter.
4. The tip section of claim 1 wherein the hollow tube is composed of a metal selected from the group consisting of: lightweight steel, polished aluminum, magnesium alloy and stainless steel.
5. The tip section of claim 1 wherein said augmenting element is a stiffening member secured to an interior position within said hollow tube, but not extending therethrough.
6. The tip section of claim 5 wherein said stiffening member is between 1 and 10 inches long.
7. The tip section of claim 6 wherein said stiffening member is composed of a material selected from the groups consisting of wood, plastic, high-tensile metal, lightweight steel, aluminum, magnesium alloy and stainless steel.
8. The tip section of claim 1 wherein said augmenting element is a weight secured to an interior position within said hollow tube.
9. The tip section of claim 1 wherein the substantially smooth surface of the tube is selected of the group comprising: chrome-plating, polished aluminum, titanium, high-gloss finish, polishing.

10. A tip section for customizing a cue stick, the tip section comprising:
- (a) a single-piece tapered hollow, chrome-plated steel tube having a first end and a second end, a hollow tube having a first end and a second end, the tube having a wall capable of self-support and of carrying required physical loads arising during use;
  - (b) a first attachment site adjacent to said first end for connecting said tube to a cue tip;
  - (c) a second attachment site adjacent to second end for connecting said tube to a butt section;
  - (d) an augmenting element securable to an interior position within the hollow tube, said augmenting element being selected from the group comprising: a weight and a stiffening member;

wherein placement of said augmenting element in the interior position within the hollow tube is determined by matching the tube's inner diameter at the desire placement within the tube with the augmenting element's outer diameter;

wherein placement of said augmenting element tailors an operational characteristic of the hollow tube.

11. A kit for customizing a tip section of a cue stick, the kit comprising:
- (a) a single-piece tapered hollow metallic tube having a first end and a second end, the tube having an exterior providing a substantially smooth surface, the tube having a wall capable of self-support and of carrying required physical loads arising during use;
  - (b) a first attachment site adjacent to said first end for connecting said tube to a cue tip; and
  - (c) a second attachment site adjacent to second end for connecting said tube to a butt section.

12. The kit of claim 11 wherein said kit further comprising an augmenting element securable to an interior position within the hollow tube, said augmenting element being selected from the group comprising: a weight and a stiffening member;

wherein placement of said augmenting element tailors an operational characteristic of the hollow tube.

13. The kit of claim 11 wherein placement of said augmenting element in the interior position within the hollow tube is determined by matching the tube's inner diameter at the desire placement within the tube with the augmenting element's outer diameter.